

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-3. (Canceled)**

**4. (New)** A method for screening for compounds that promote binding of estrogen related receptor ligand 1 (ERRL1) to estrogen related receptor (ERR), which method comprises:

- (1) contacting cultured cells with a candidate compound, wherein said cultured cells express ERRL1 and ERR;
- (2) measuring the binding of ERRL1 to ERR in the presence of the candidate compound and in a control sample in the absence of said candidate compound;
- (3) identifying the candidate compound promoting binding of ERRL1 to ERR as compared to said control sample.

**5. (New)** The method of claim 4, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from an established human or non-human cell line; from tissue of a human or non-human animal body and appropriately maintained in a culture condition.

**6. (New)** The method of claim 5, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from cells selected from the group consisting of: (1) adipocyte cells, (2) yeast cells; (3) bacterial cells; (4) cells transfected with ERRL1 cDNA and/or ERR cDNA; and (5) isolated animal cells, such as BAT, heart, skeletal muscle, or kidney, in which ERRL1 protein is highly expressed.

7. **(New)** A method for screening for compounds that increase the activity of estrogen related receptor (ERR) for expressing a medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) gene, which method comprises:

(1) contacting cultured cells with a candidate compound, wherein said cultured cells express ERR;

(2) measuring the activity of ERR for expressing the MCAD gene in the presence of the candidate compound; and

(3) identifying the candidate compound increasing the activity for expressing the MCAD gene to the level the same as action of ERRL1 to ERR.

8. **(New)** The method of claim 7, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from an established human or non-human cell line; from tissue of a human or non-human animal body and appropriately maintained in a culture condition.

9. **(New)** The method of claim 8, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from cells selected from the group consisting of: (1) adipocyte cells, (2) yeast cells; (3) bacterial cells; (4) cells transfected with ERRL1 cDNA and/or ERR cDNA; and (5) isolated animal cells, such as BAT, heart, skeletal muscle, or kidney, in which ERRL1 protein is highly expressed.